Diem Programs, Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group (116E), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420.

(b) For nongrant recipients, the receipt of application for per diem will constitute the request for recognition of eligibility. Grant recipients seeking per diem assistance will indicate this request on the application. Grant recipients are not required to complete a separate application for per diem assistance. VA will review those portions of the grant application that pertain to per diem. Those entities already receiving a grant must submit a request for recognition to initiate the scoring of their application for per diem payments

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501, 7721, note) [62 FR 6125, Feb. 11, 1997]

§17.718 Approval of annexes and new facilities.

Separate applications for recognition must be filed for any annex, branch, enlargement, expansion, or relocation of the site of service provision of an eligible entity's facility which is not on the same or contiguous grounds on which the parent facility is located. When an eligible entity establishes sites which have not been inspected and approved by VA, a request for separate approval of such sites must be made. The prohibitions in §17.720 of this part are also applicable to applications for aid on behalf of any veterans cared for in a new annex, branch or enlarged, expanded or relocated facility.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501, 7721, note) [62 FR 6125, Feb. 11, 1997]

§17.719 Amount of aid payable.

The per diem amount payable for supportive housing is the current VA State Home Program per diem rate for domiciliary care as set forth in 38 U.S.C. 1741. The per diem amount payable for supportive services, not provided in conjunction with supportive housing, is \$1.10 for each half-hour during which supportive services are provided, up to \$17.60 per day. These rates will be paid provided, however, the per diem amount for supportive housing or supportive services (not provided in

conjunction with supportive housing) does not exceed one-half of the cost to the per diem recipient of providing the services. Also, provided further, per diem payment of supportive housing and supportive services may be lessened because of budget restriction as described in §17.715(d)(3) of this part. Per diem payments may not be paid for a veteran for both supportive housing and supportive services (not in conjunction with supportive housing).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501, 7721, note) [62 FR 6126, Feb. 11, 1997]

§17.720 Approval of eligibility.

(a) Eligibility determinations. A grant recipient (or entity eligible for such a grant as described in §17.716 of this part) will receive per diem payments or in-kind assistance from VA only for the care of veterans whose separate eligibility has been determined by VA, and only where VA has referred the veteran under §17.715(a)(1) or has authorized the provision of supportive housing or supportive services under §17.715(a)(2) of this part. A veteran does not have to be eligible for VA medical care in order for the Department to make per diem payments for that veteran.

(1) VA shall determine the eligibility of each veteran referred to a grant recipient (or entity eligible for such a grant as described in §17.716 of this part) prior to making such referral.

(2) To obtain such determination for veterans not referred by VA, the grant recipient (or entity eligible for such a grant as described in §17.716 of this part) will complete a VA application for medical benefits for each veteran and submit it to the VA medical care facility office of jurisdiction for determination of eligibility.

(b) Retroactive payments. Per diem payments may be paid retroactively for services provided not more than three days before VA approval is given where VA authorized the provision of services pursuant to §17.715(a)(2).

 $[59\ FR\ 28265,\ June\ 1,\ 1994,\ as\ amended\ at\ 62\ FR\ 6126,\ Feb.\ 11,\ 1997]$

§17.721 Inspections.

The Secretary may inspect any facility of an entity eligible for per diem